THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a sizeable loss of standing crop and property in the districts of Barpeta and Nalbari.

(c) In addition to the steps taken by the State Government, the Government of India has been extending Central Loan Assistance since 1974-75 towards the works component of flood control schemes in the Brahmaputra Valley. The schemes consisting of embankments, drainage channels, anti-erosion works etc. are short-term measures and their construction would continue. The long-term measures involve construction of multipurpose storage projects, watershed management and river training works.

Prices of Vegetables

790. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vegetable prices have gone sky-rocketing beyond the reach of the common man in Delhi;

(b) if so, what were the comparative prices of common varieties of vegetables on July 1, 1987 and on the corresponding dates in the previous two years; and

(c) whether Government have gone into middle man's profits in the vegetables trade, if so, what is the average percentage of the (i) peasants price and (ii) retail price that goes as the middle man's profits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULUTRE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no increase in the prices of vegetables as on 1st week of July, 1987 as compared to the corresponding periods of 1986 and 1985, except onion. The retail prices of potato, onion and other vegetables in Delhi in 1st week of July for the years 1987, 1986 and 1985 are stated below:—

Commodity	Retail Prices (Rs. per kg.)		
	1987	1986	1985
Potato .	2.50	4.00	2.00
Onion .	3.00	1.20	1a50
Tomato .	5.00	6.00	6.00
Lady's Finger .	3.00	5.00	6.00
Brinjals .	2.00	2.20	2.20

(c) The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, have conducted the study on Price Spread of Onions in India during 1979 and 1980. The costs and margins in respect of different States are given in the Annexures. (*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 43 (A) and (B).

Encroachment of Land by Colonisers in South Delhi

791. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report in the Hindustan Times of June 17, 1987, captioned "Greedy citizenry Inept Planners", to the effect that about 6,000 hectares of land in South Delhi, between Badarpur to Mehrauli to Mahipalpur to National Highway Number 8 and the border of the Union Territory, is in danger of being encroached upon by unauthorised colonisers and the like;

(b) if so, how many unauthorised colonisers and farm houses have already cropped up in the area; and

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent the land grab and the unplanned colonies and farm houses coming up in the area?